This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of tracking operations in an automated business process, the method comprising:

the computer defining a plurality of operations at a plurality of nodes in a business process;

the computer executing a workflow comprising the operations;

the computer applying a plurality of business rules to the workflow at the nodes to affect the operations, wherein the plurality of business rules are applied using a rules engine integrated with a workflow process engine, and wherein the rules engine and the workflow process engine are implemented in a same processor of the computer;

the computer changing the business rules and applying the changed business rules during execution of the workflow without stopping execution of the workflow; and

the computer providing a correlation between the business rules applied to the nodes and the corresponding affected operations to track operations within the workflow, the computer providing the correlation by implementing an integrated interface control layer that provides an integrated user interface to the business rules engine and the workflow process engine for enabling performance monitoring of the operations workflow.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operations are at least one of transactions internal to a business enterprise and transactions external to a business enterprise.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operations comprise passing XML formatted messages according to the workflow.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the computer constructing a delayed query to evaluate at least one of the business rules, the query delayed in the workflow process such that the query is executed over a data set smaller than a full sized data set whereby a time-efficient query results.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~optionally~~ the computer changing the business rules and applying the changed business rules during execution of the workflow comprises the computer implementing a changed business rule while avoiding at least one of suspending, recompiling and redeploying the workflow.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein optionally changing the business rules and applying the changed business rules during execution of the workflow comprises the computer utilizing at least one declarative if/then statement.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a correlation between the business rules applied to the nodes and corresponding affected operations comprises the computer providing a correspondence between a specific business rule executed at a node and a resultant state of an operation within the workflow of the automated business process.

8-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium, comprising instructions ~~which~~ that execute a method of tracking of operations in an automated business process, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of operations at a plurality of nodes in a business process;

executing a workflow comprising the operations;

applying a plurality of business rules to the workflow at the nodes to affect the operations, wherein the plurality of business rules are applied using a rules engine integrated with a workflow process engine, and wherein the rules engine and the workflow process engine are implemented in a same processor;

changing the business rules and applying the changed business rules during execution of the workflow without stopping execution of the workflow; and

providing a correlation between the business rules applied to the nodes and the corresponding affected operations to provide tracking of operations within the workflow, the

correlation being provided by implementing an integrated interface control layer that provides an integrated user interface to the business rules engine and the workflow process engine for enabling performance monitoring of the operations workflow.

17. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the operations comprise passing XML formatted messages according to the workflow.

18. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises:

constructing a delayed query to evaluate at least one of the business rules, the query delayed in the workflow process such that the query is executed over a data set smaller than a full sized data set whereby a time-efficient query results.

19. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein ~~optionally~~ changing the plurality of business rules and applying the changed business rules during execution of the workflow comprises implementing a changed business rule while avoiding at least one of suspending, recompiling and redeploying the workflow.

20. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein providing a correlation between the business rules applied to the nodes and corresponding affected operations comprises providing a correspondence between a specific business rule executed at a node and a resultant state of an operation within the workflow of the automated business process.

21-25. (Canceled).